

■ **CHALLENGES:** Derek Rivers to compete on next month's Ironman Lake Placid

Doctor going the distance for Port Colborne hospital

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A man of steel will endure 17 hours of soul-testing feats for Port Colborne hospital.

Dr. Derek Rivers, a family physician in the lakeside city, plans to compete in the Ironman Lake Placid to support the Port Colborne Hospital Foundation.

The July 22 triathlon is a full 226 km. Rivers will run, swim and cycle his way through Lake Placid, NY.

It's a personal challenge. It's great fitness and I do like all three sports."

Dr. Derek Rivers

Racers must finish within 17 hours, but Rivers has set his person goal at 14 hours.

The race comprises a 3.8-km swim, 180 km of cycling and a 42.2-km run.

Rivers started training in 2010 and ran a half-marathon in October. This year, but during the race, he sustained a stress fracture in his leg.

"That was a lesson learned. You can't go from running 3 km to 21 km in a day," he said. "It was a huge setback."

He started swimming and cycling that year as well, and neither were easy to do. He said the first time he tried to

swim laps at Centennial Pool he barely finished two.

"I thought, 'I have to do 170 of these?' but I got some help and it turned out well."

He said he couldn't have come as far as he has without his trainer and training partners.

Rivers runs 40 to 50 km a week, rides about 200 km a week, swims 10 km and does weight training.

"And I work somewhere in there," he said. "I'm lucky that I can make my own schedule."

Rivers and his family took a vacation in the Dominican Republic a few years ago and they befriended an Ironman participant, an elite athlete who inspired Rivers to challenge himself to complete the race.

"It's a personal challenge. It's great fitness and I do like all three sports," Rivers said. "I also like to eat and this allows me unlimited calories."

He said he also wants to set a good example for his children.

Pledges to support Rivers' race and the Port Colborne Hospital Foundation can be placed online at www.portcolbornehospitalfoundation.com. People can also pick up a pledge form at any doctors office in Port Colborne or contact Debbie Spragget, the foundation's administrator, at 905-834-4501.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Derek Rivers is running a full Ironman — 226 kilometres — in July to support the Port Colborne Hospital Foundation.

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■ MUSIC: Beth Moore part of Canada Day celebrations in Ottawa



ASHLEY TREDENICK Special to QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara singer-songwriter Beth Moore performed in Ottawa for Canada Day festivities. Organizers found her simply by Googling "Niagara musicians."

Capital celebration draws Niagara singer to perform

JOHN LAW
QMI AGENCY/NIAGARA

PORT COLBORNE — Niagara singer Beth Moore figured to be a bit of a surprise at the festival she'd be playing. Until she told a friend just what it was: Ottawa on Canada Day.

She quickly realized it wasn't just another festival.

"He's like, 'Hold on a second ... do you understand how huge that is? Beth, that's how a lot of people's careers have started!'"

A quick scan at the rest of the lineup confirmed this was no ordinary show for the

Port Colborne-born singer/songwriter. Musicians playing the nation's capital July 1 draw thousands simply because of the all-day festivities, which will be held around Parliament Hill, including Major's Hill Park where Moore will perform at 6 p.m.

Moore didn't have to lobby for the gig — organizers found her.

"I don't have a huge following there," she says. "They said they Googled 'Niagara musicians,' and I came up."

"It didn't register, really. It was just another festival

George Moore has just always found that these doors open ... God works it out. I've never kicked any door down, they all just opened. The ones I have just hit me in the butt."

Beth Moore

in my head. I was just like, 'Cool, I'm so glad I didn't have to pay and apply.'"

Shortly after her set, crowds will likely flock across the Rideau Canal to see the main concert at Parliament Hill, featuring Simple Plan, Feist, Roch Voisine, Marie-Mai, Neverest, July Black, Mistress Barbara and

Donny Parentrieau.

At Major's Hill Park, Moore will be joined by up-and-coming artists like Deon Blyan, Bonnie St. Croix, Diable aux Corsets, Good Lovelies, Hey Ocean, Jeffrey Piton, Simon Walls and Ash Koley.

For Moore, it will likely be her biggest audience yet in a career that started six

years ago. Through word of mouth and constant performing, she has emerged as one of the region's most highly-touted singers, winning Artist of the Year at last year's Niagara Music Awards.

Being noticed outside of Niagara is nice, she says, but she won't celebrate it too long.

"I'm so busy pushing onto the next thing in my career that I don't really notice who's taken notice of what I've done," she says. "I notice more people come out to the shows, but I'm always pushing forward."

"I've just always found that these doors open ... God works it out. I've never kicked any door down, they all just opened. The ones I have just hit me in the butt."

After Ottawa, it's back to work on a new album (expected next summer) and her own personal 500 by 15 Mission: 500 concerts by 2015.

"Anyone can do it," she says. "Please, if you think you're going to play 500 shows in three years, then by all means take the name. It's like 14 shows a month — good luck."

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ourview

Canada Day in the shade

With all the hype about the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the War of 1812 bicentennial, Canada's 150th birthday is almost overshadowed.

It's a touch ironic.

The anniversary celebrations are indirectly related to the creation of Canada.

It's a stretch to say the War of 1812 led directly to Dominion Day in 1867.

A lot of twists in the road came between the two events.

The War of 1812, however, did get those living in Upper and Lower Canada thinking. They started to realize they were less North American, or British or French and more Canadian.

It took a few more jolts — the Rebellions of 1837, the American Civil War, the Fenian Raids of 1866, an indifference in Britain toward its Canadian colonies — before Confederation became necessary.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee reminds us of our continued link with the Crown.

Elizabeth II is Queen of Canada as well as Queen of the United Kingdom. She is also separately Queen of Australia, Queen of New Zealand and queen of other former colonies that have evolved into independent nations.

The link for most Canadians is symbolic. It reinforces our belief in a parliamentary form of democratic government.

Sometimes we muse about dropping the royal connection. We could replace it with a republican style of parliamentary government as Ireland, India, and South Africa did.

Few, however, would want to bother with the constitutional fuss that would involve.

You could just see all the provinces and political parties in the Senate, the House of Commons, for changes in local powers, the Senate, the courts and so forth.

The emotional attachment of some to the Crown would make for a noisy debate for little reason.

What's more on Canada Day, the royal connection gives us a little extra flare.

A hit of national hailing, so to speak.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

Titanic: Hope for the hopeless

PASTOR GARY TOMICUK

Wainfleet Congregational

Christian Church

It is 1912, and you are aboard the world's finest ship. Many said that even God could not sink it. Hours later you are jolted forward, you hear and feel the mysterious hanging — the crunching sound of metal scraping ice — the breaking of boards.

Freeling water gushes in, panic is everywhere as people rush and shove each other.

Many grasp frantically for the lifeboats whose tally is insufficient.

You are sinking fast — the water is out and the lights have died. The ship is breaking into pieces and you are helpless.

Hundreds of innocent people — men, women and children either jump or are thrown into the icy water. They are drowning. They are suffer and die from hypothermia and over exposure. Husbands and wives embracing each other trying to comfort each other, whispering words of encouragement "I love you — it will be alright".

Trying helplessly to squeeze life into each other. Mothers cradling children, rubbing their heads, telling them help is on the way — trying to provide a short time together, yet at the same time not wanting them to suffer too long.

Many will die, die together as they lived together locked in each others passionate embrace. For they are

families in life and in death. And this watery grave will cruelly pull down over 1,200 of them with its deadly fingers.

Some wonder — Where is God? Others curse, many pray. Despair and pain are written upon the faces of many. Their expressions would give the voice to the words applied to the Apostle Paul and all those on board the ship (Acts 27:20). Who when neither sun nor stars appeared for so long, and no small wait was upon us, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

Maybe you have given up hope? But Paul said I urge you to keep up your courage. How could Paul say this? Answer: (Vs 23) An angel of God stood beside him.

That not only infused courage and strengthened their flagging spirits, but a powerful promise also attended him. There would be no loss of life, only the ship would be destroyed.

And this happened just as surely as the faithful promise keeping God said it would. Many swam, others clung to pieces of the ship and so it was all escaped safely to land. (Vs 44)

They were shipwrecked but they all made it (everyone).

Do you sometimes feel like your life is a shipwreck? You are just drifting aimlessly along. You are hanging on to the flimsy pieces of your broken dreams. You are hollering up and down with no direction like a

cork in the ocean of life and you have nothing gold under your feet.

Well, just as surely as the angel of the Lord stood beside the Apostle Paul, He likewise stands beside you. And He will bring you safely to land.

Upon your death when you cross the shore to the other side, He will bring you to Himself provided you have confessed your sins and you have received the free gift of eternal life found in Christ and in Christ alone.

This is the blessed hope and hope keeps you alive. It looks ahead as Christ looked beyond the cross to the glory that He had previously enjoyed with his Father from the beginning.

When you have given up hope, you will not last very long. We all need a fresh portion of hope, a fresh infusion of encouragement and an injection of grace daily.

Take courage in this. If you are a Christian you will not ever be lost in imagination the joy it will be to one day look into the face and the eyes of Christ, your Master, your Redeemer, and Lord.

You have Him hug you and to hear those most blessed words, "Welcome my son, my daughter, enter into the joy of the Lord."

For me it will and I pray also for you that this message will give hope for the hopeless, hope for every situation in life, hope for the heart.

And that blessed hope will sustain you now and forever.

Praise his holy name!

readers'views

The green hypocrisy

A recent Tribune article was very revealing and only proved yet again the hypocrisy of those supposed environmentalists trumpeting the wind energy industry already failing everywhere else worldwide.

We have a regional mayor celebrating Chinese investment in a Niagara Region wind farm. Yet he and others are coming up truly believe that China is "invading" Ontario to benefit Ontarians? They "invest" with guarantees to recoup their money and to realise huge profits, all underwritten by your tax dollars, taxes you have not yet even started to pay.

Worldwide every single "green" job produced has been shown to be at the expense of at least one, and up to four other manufacturing jobs lost.

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Harper and Big Oil, with Chinese investment — Bad! McGuinty and Wind Power with Chinese investment — Good! Oil pipelines negatively affecting human health — Bad! Wind Turbines negatively affecting human health — Good! Tar sands and killing birds, caribou and killing birds — Bad!

Niagara Region is on the brink of ensuring their already unsustainable deficit gets even worse all at the taxpayer's expense. If the 250 promised jobs ever do materialise they won't last and yet again, the taxpayer, will be on the hook to pay for the unsustainable promises your incompetent regional council have made.

Andrew Watts

Wainfleet

■ ECOLOGY: Water quality concerns

Legislation aims to start a wave of Great Lakes protection

DON FRASER
Standard Staff

A drinkable water supply, you can safely eat and swimmable beaches.

They may seem like fresh-water basics, but they've been a challenge for the Great Lakes.

With this in mind, provincial Environment Minister Jim Bradley introduced legislation this week aimed at a cleaner, better-protected Great Lakes water.

The proposed Great Lakes Protection Act, if passed, will give the environment minister authority to establish targets and address local issues on lake preservation and quality.

"We in Niagara are probably the ones of any (areas) that would benefit most from this," said Bradley, noting Niagara has extensive Lake Ontario and Lake Erie shorelines.

"I can see it in tourism, drinking, fishing and recreation — we benefit immensely every time we see an improvement to the Great Lakes," he said.

The MPP for St. Catharines said there has been consider-

able progress cleaning up the Great Lakes, but soaring populations add to stresses along its waterways and water sources.

In its first year, the legislation would provide \$1.5 million to set up a Great Lakes Community Action Fund to help fund modest community projects, such as waterfront pick-ups, new waterfront trails and fish habitat research.

There will be a Great Lakes Guardian Council, which will include representatives from groups like municipalities, scientists, community groups, First Nations people and farmers.

The group will recommend priority areas where clean-up efforts by governments and citizens are badly needed.

"I think the Guardian Council is excellent," Bradley said. "It'll have all the ministers in the provincial government who would have anything to do with these waterways, not just the Environment Ministry."

Mark Mattson, president of Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, said the legislation's focus comes from community

outreach, led by the province, that mobilized many groups, including Mattson's environmental charity that is dedicated to protecting Lake Ontario.

"The theme was people really want to focus on their communities," he said.

"They want their harbours cleaned up, their beaches open and clean for swimming and they want fish restoration for fishing and clean drinking water."

"Forty years ago, Lake Erie was the metaphor for declining Great Lakes," he said, adding banning the pesticide DDT and enforcing sewage-treatment plants went a long way to cleaning up the Great Lakes.

"Those success stories are getting a little old for me," he said.

Mattson points to one modern-day issue: growing threats from beach closures due to heavy rainfall that overtaxes sewage-treatment plants that in turn pump out stormwater and sewage into the lakes.

Mattson said one particular regret in Lake Ontario is the loss of its commercial fishery, which is an issue the other great lakes share.

"Lake Ontario once provided hundreds of tons of fish to all our communities," Mattson said.

One factor in the decline is the loss of 60-70% of the lake's near-shore fish habitat and the blockage of fish river-runs to the lake.

"For the 10th-greatest freshwater lake in the world, it's sort of a sad situation," Mattson said. "Lake Ontario

lost its mojo."

He said there are other emerging threats in a lake that supplies millions of people with drinking water, including new chemicals and pharmaceutical remnants deposited through sewage.

The legislation — known as Bill 100 — returns to the legislature in the fall for a second reading and committee work. Bradley said he's confident the legislature will approve the act, which he expects to be implemented in the fall session.

In the meantime, the government is also releasing a Great Lakes Strategy for public comment.

"It's all about the sustainability (of these freshwater areas)," said St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan, who is also chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities,

a binational group working to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

People living in these areas "want to know at least they can drink the water, swim in the lake and enjoy recreational activities with their family," McMullan said.

"To me, it's not just about the economy and the benefits that brings, but also quality of life."

"I really applaud the province for taking this initiative."

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Ministry site:

free app at
<http://bit.ly/LtjEyX>

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■ **SOCIAL JUSTICE:** Port student a scholarship recipient

Port graduate involved in community

InPort News Staff

WELLAND — A Port Colborne resident and graduate of Centennial Secondary School is one of three recipients of the St. Kevin Food Bank Social Justice Scholarship.

Hannah Fuaco was presented with the scholarship at Centennial's commencement exercises Thursday, June 28.

The \$1,000 scholarship is for students "who envision not a perfect world but a better one," one of the scholarship documents says.

Charity and social justice involvement have long roots in Fuaco's personal and family background.

Grandparents Dan and Jan Fuaco were organizers of the community food drive in Port Colborne.

"My grandparents organized it for 10 years. I have gone every year since they started. I got involved because I love the sense of pride it gives me and my community. I feel accomplished for giving back to the people that kept me safe as I was growing up. I also know how important it is to a struggling family not to have to worry about putting food on the table."

Fuaco was a member of Centennial's T.R.E.B. (Tolerance, Respect, Equality for Everyone) club. Its primary focus is anti-bullying

but other issues with which it deals are homophobia, personal inflictions, self-esteem and reaching out to others. She was also part of Choices, Beliefs and Changes (CBC). It provided training about drug and alcohol abuse, peer pressure and other social-cultural issues.

"Then we went to local and feeder elementary schools and to students in Grade 8. Our goal was to promote them and educate them. We wanted them to feel stronger and braver," she told the scholarship committee.

Wendy Davies, a public health nurse who worked with Fuaco through CBC, provided a glowing recommendation for her involvement: "She is an excellent role model, she empowers her peers to take responsibility for their health and well-being through the choices they make. One of the healthy choices Hannah encourages her peers to make is to get involved early and often in school and community activities. Hannah 'walks the talk' in this regard."

Fuaco is a parishioner at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, where her pastor, Rev. Brian Bevan describes

her as "devoted to Christ and the Church." A former altar server for five years, she now is involved in hospitality ministry and is an occasional lay reader at the parish.

Fuaco has been accepted into the Humanities program at McMaster University, Hamilton. She is intent on earning a health sciences degree and becoming a certified midwife, although other studies including linguistics, peace studies and communication could lead her to another career choice: "I can see myself as a peace advocate, a liaison between countries to promote peace."

The scholarship was also awarded to Pelham residents and Port Colborne graduates, Ali Gossman and Lauren Mortier.

The social justice scholarship is awarded annually to Catholic students graduating from high schools in Welland and Pelham.

Applications are available at high school guidance offices in early spring. Funds for the scholarship are generated by Soup's On!, the soup luncheon held the last Friday in January at St. Kevin's Church, Welland.

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Supplied photo

Hannah Fuaco

■ An excellent role model, she empowered her peers to take responsibility for their health and well-being through the choices they make. One of the healthy choices Hannah encourages her peers to make is to get involved early and often in school and community activities."

Wendy Davies

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■ BUSINESS: Niagara woman turns hobby into her career

Fan ramps up for bike show debut

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

NIAGARA FALLS — Alexis Apolcer used to spend hours and hours travelling around North America for work.

Now she spends more and more time at home, but she wouldn't trade it for anything.

The 30-year-old entrepreneur from Port Colborne is the woman behind the Niagara Motorcycle Show, which will make its debut July 20-22 at the Scotiabank Convention Centre.

Apolcer hopes between 30,000 and 40,000 people show up for the inaugural event.

After taking sales and marketing courses at college and television in school, Apolcer found work in the U.S. in such high-profile events such as NASCAR races, the Masters and the Superbowl. She was also a

motorcycle fanatic and the host of Biker TV, and was recruited to rebuild a 1957 Chevy Nomad for Snap On Tools.

But two years ago, Apolcer moved back to Niagara and watched the Scotiabank Convention Centre being built.

It seemed to be inspiring.

"Doing my own motorcycle show was always something I wanted to do," she said. "As soon as I saw the (convention centre) was being built, I knew it would happen and moved forward from there."

Apolcer says the show will start out as three days — plus a kickoff party on Queen St. — soon but she would see it grow into all week of activities, similar to a Daytona Bike Week.

"There's really no major motorcycle rally in the area during the summer, so it makes sense," she said. "You can add

a lot more outdoor elements to it."

Hosting an event of that size has been a massive amount of work for her.

"This occupies at least 20 out of 24 hours a day," she said. "It's endless. I've been working on it for years."

Though women make up about 30% of the motorcycle market, the industry is still largely run by men.

"I don't even let it get to me. I focus on the positive. I'm as much of a motorcyclist as any guy," she said. "I don't really pay attention to that stereotype."

The Niagara Motorcycle Show will feature group rides, demo stunts, vendors, a fashion show, celebrity appearances and other events. For more details visit www.niagaramotorcycleshow.com.

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MIKE DIBATTISTA QMI Agency Niagara
Alexis Apolcer, organizer of the Niagara Motorcycle Show being held at the Scotiabank Convention Centre July 20 to 22.



TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET

NOTICE

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE NEW COMPREHENSIVE ZONING BYLAW AND SITE PLAN CONTROL GUIDELINES

Please be advised that the Township of Wainfleet will be holding a public open house meeting on **Tuesday, July 10, 2012, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** in the Township of Wainfleet Council Chambers, 31940 Highway #3, Wainfleet. The purpose of this open house is to present the Wainfleet Zoning Bylaw Review – Directions Report and seek public input concerning the creation of a New Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw and Site Plan Control Guidelines. Public input is a critical component of this project and will help shape these critical planning documents and overall development regulation in the Township. All Wainfleet residents, property owners and other stakeholders are invited to attend. The Township of Wainfleet has retained Sorenson Gravely Lowes Planning Associates Inc. Please contact Grant Munday at planning@wainfleet.ca or (905) 899-3463, extension 225 with any questions or concerns. Additional information is available at www.wainfleet.ca.

■ POINT ABINO LIGHTHOUSE: \$1.4-million renovation complete

Lighthouse a 'newly frosted cake'

MATT DAY

QMI Agency Niagara

FORT ERIE — Spiderwebs lined the Point Abino Lighthouse for decades.

Some were woven, while others appeared as cracks in broken windows of the 95-year-old structure that once served as an important beacon for mariners travelling the treacherous shoals of Lake Erie into Buffalo and Port Colborne.

The concrete was crumbling, the crisp white paint had dulled to a light shade of grey and rusted the metal railing, but the lighthouse would be able to endure another 95 years.

"We were in fear of losing the structure without the work," said Sean Hutton, the lighthouse's facility manager, of the \$1.4-million construction project completed by Phoenix Restoration and Taylor Hazell Architects Ltd.

The work included casting, forming and stabilizing the concrete that makes up the base of the tower.

The most visible parts of the restoration project include a new coat of paint, new windows and doors,

a restored balcony, and bright, red accent paint marking the entrance to the lightroom.

"It's been four years, or five years, 10 years, the work only would have cost more. It really shows, we are encouraging people to come down and see it for yourself," Hutton said.

The first guided tour since 2010 was held one day after the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada's commemorative plaque was unveiled with the help of town councillors, MP and Minister of Environment Minister Peter Kent, members of the Point Abino Lighthstation Preservation Society and guests.

Nicholson said he's a "great supporter" of preserving the nation's historic landmarks.

"Designating something as a national historic site will help preserve and enhance this for many years to come. What a tremendous thing," he said.

Lighthouses are an important part of the history of this country, but this one in particular ... is so esthetically pleasing among other lighthouses across the country."

The Tory government funded \$425,000 of the restoration of the lighthouse through the National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program. The rest of the cost was picked up by

the Town of Fort Erie. The selling of the lighthouse keeper's dwelling, once listed at \$649,000, helped fund the project.

"This is tremendous progress. To have the outside secure and restored is the essential first step to the preservation, but work needs to be done on the inside now and we all have to pull together to make that happen," Nicholson said.

Charlene Nigh, a volunteer with PALPS, said she's thrilled about what's been done.

"It's just like looking at a newly frosted cake. We could see the beauty even in spite of the appearance."

She said the late classical revival style lighthouse now looks like it did in 1918.

The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1996 and is owned by the town, but access to the site is controlled by the Point Abino Association.

Courtney Passero said he's the president to the association and hopes to work with them for many years in strengthening the partnership and making access to the lighthouse easier.

"I think there's more access than people are aware of," added Hutton.

"Tours run eight times throughout the year and there's walk-in access almost daily throughout the summer."

GRADUATION



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne High School valedictorian Kyle Wittmaier is congratulated by principal Nigel Evans in front of the school on Thursday night.

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■ MUSIC: Port Colborne success

'We were just really lucky people'

ANGELA SCAPPATURA
QMI Agency Niagara

For Amy Cole, music wasn't something she thought she'd do for a living.

As a kid growing up in Port Colborne she took piano and voice lessons. She was a member of the Wood Kids Children's Choir and her high school band.

But her ambitions lay elsewhere. She studied writing in university and worked as a writer for television.

Despite that, Cole ended up joining a band after fin-

ishing her studies at Ryerson University.

And now, she's performing with The Rural Alberta Advantage at one of the largest concerts Niagara has seen.

On Saturday, the folk rock band played at Butler's Barracks as one of the opening acts for The Tragically Hip. The band shared the stage with a "very, very special guest," said Cole, who couldn't elaborate.

"After I graduated from Ryerson I thought I would focus on music for a while

and the band kept building. We were just really lucky people, started to like what we were doing and we started building a fan base," said Cole, who sings backup vocals and plays keyboard (among a host of other instruments).

"I don't think any of us thought we would do this for our lives. We just loved hanging out and playing music together and it just grew."

That growth has been impressive. The band inde-

pendently recorded their

debut album *Hometowns* in 2008. It was a venture the band didn't expect to be heard by many beyond friends and family. But soon after, they were offered a distribution deal, then a record deal with U.S. label Saddle Creek.

A Canadian deal came soon after as did a performance at the prestigious South by Southwest Festival. The band has toured relentlessly in North America and overseas and received praise from Rolling Stone magazine, Pitchfork and the Wall

Street Journal.

In 2011, the band released their sophomore effort, *Departing*.

The Rural Alberta Advantage, comprising Nils Edenloff (lead vocal/guitar), Paul Banwatt on drums and Cole on keys in Toronto and the music evolved organically, said Cole.

And her parents, who still live in Port Colborne, have always supported her work. Even when Cole told them she planned to quit her job to go on tour.

"Not everyone's parents

would be supportive but they've never been anything but supportive of me following my dreams," she said.

And last weekend, another dream was made reality. Cole described the idea of sharing a stage with The Hip as "unbelievable."

"Getting to play for The Hip, one of the defining bands of our youth, is unbelievable," she said. "I can't wait to see my friends and family in Niagara. All three of us are excited to be playing this festival. It's a huge opportunity."



VANESSA HEINS Supplied Photo
Paul Banwatt, left, Amy Cole and Nils Edenloff form The Rural Alberta Advantage. The band opened for the Tragically Hip at Butler's Barracks last weekend.

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■ COMMUNITY

Port, YMCA ink 20-year deal for Vale Centre

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — After almost a year of meetings with the YMCA of Niagara, Port Colborne city council has signed the contract.

Politicians approved a plan to enter into a 20-year renewable agreement with the YMCA to permit the organization to manage the "warm side" of the Vale Health and Wellness Centre.

The warm side refers to the centre's two pools, a double gym, exercise facility, eight outdoor basketball courts and a walking/jogging track for all-season use.

"This is not new for the YMCA. They have already been in Port Colborne for years



Badaway

taking advantage of our parks and camps, but it gives them the opportunity to enhance programs they had in our parks at the facility while continuing with what they have in the parks," Mayor Vance Badaway said in an interview Tuesday afternoon.

The city will run the cold side of the facility, which includes two NHL-sized ice rinks.

The YMCA plans to offer 240 programs for people of all ages and income levels.

Currently the city only runs 10 to 12 programs at Centennial Pool at a cost of \$300,000 a year.

The pool money will instead go toward subsidizing the YMCA's programs.

"(The Vale Health and Wellness Centre) offers a lot more than just exercise and therapeutic for seniors with arthritis, which we currently can't offer because the water is too cold. We offer more, so there's more intake to the facility and that will bring down

the subsidy based on usage," Badaway said.

The wellness centre is to open in November.

Terry Suess, a volunteer board member for the YMCA who lives in Port Colborne, said he is pleased about a finalized agreement in the works.

"(The) long-term agreement (will) ultimately position the YMCA to strengthen the health and wellness of Port Colborne individuals and families," he said.



SPOTLIGHT on service



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■ CHURCHES: Pastoral appointments

Diocese announces clergy moves coming to Port, Wainfleet

InPort News Staff

PONT COLBORNE — The Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Catharines has announced pastoral appointments affecting several parishes, including some in Port Colborne, Wainfleet, Welland and Pelham.

Among the changes which

take effect Aug. 1, are these at Port Colborne and Wainfleet parishes:

Rev. Paul McDonald, prior of Paroisse St. Jean-de-Brebeuf, Port Colborne, Sacre Coeur, Welland, Immaculée Conception, St. Catharines and Paroisse St. Antoine de Padoue, Niagara Falls was named rector of the

Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. He succeeds Monsignor Wayne Kirkpatrick who will become an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Toronto. His episcopal ordination is on July 25 at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria in St. Catharines; Rev. William Derouise, pastor of St. Therese parish,

Port Colborne, was named pastor of the four francophone parishes in the diocese, succeeding McDonald.

Rev. Michael Andryszak, pastor of St. Michael's, Dundas, to St. Therese, Port Colborne.

Rev. Gabriel Dias, new to the diocese, to pastor of St. Elizabeth, Wainfleet.

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THE TRIBUNE

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inPortbriefs

WOMAN REPORTS ATTACK

PORT COLBORNE — A 36-year-old woman walking in downtown Port Colborne was attacked from behind early Wednesday morning.

Just after midnight, the victim told Niagara Regional Police, she left a Clarence St. establishment and was headed north on King St. when the woman of the former light bulb cleaners said she was overtaken from behind and a struggle ensued, according to her statement to police consciousness.

She reported regaining consciousness in a rocky area behind the KFC outlet on King St. She found herself accompanied by a male she did not know. She described him as white 25 to 30 years of age, and soft spoken, about 5-foot-8, fat, stocky and having a big belly and strong arms.

Police are interested in speaking with anyone who may be able to assist in the investigation.

SMALL TOWN GIRL

Tips on taking baby name advice



Michèle Pressé
CANADIAN GIRL,
ITALIAN LIVING

Within the next decade, teachers are going to have trouble pronouncing the names written on their attendance lists.

The literacy rate in Canada is not dropping, and no, there hasn't been an overwhelming increase in the number of refugees entering the country. The reason why teachers may have difficulty reading the names listed on their attendance sheet is because there has been a rather unfortunate trend sweeping the nation — the march of "original baby names."

It's replacing C's, silent Z's are being put in unnecessary places, and no one's fooling anyone by claiming that it was the way their great grandmother — whose name was Mary — spelled it.

This tragic turn of events is causing midwives everywhere to shake their heads in disapproval and neighbours to mispell Junior's name on the congratulations card that ends with, "PS: What in the world were you thinking?"

The worst part about this dilemma is the reaction from friends and family members, because most people do not feel comfortable picking up the parents-to-be, shaking their heads and asking whether or not they've lost their minds, when they instead have to stand there with a tight smile and bulging eyes and say, "What a great choice."

Every parent has the right to name their child whatever they like, but it's important to keep in mind what you would feel if you had a name that constantly had to be questioned on its spelling, pronunciation, origin, and sanity

of parents at the time of signing the birth certificate.

Children all across Canada are going to resent their parents for giving them a "tricky" name.

It doesn't matter if it means something significant when spelled backwards or that the "eigh" opposed to the "e" represents your psychic abilities in knowing that your child is going to grow up to be a... artist for the rest of their life, therefore would appropriate an oddly spelled name.

What ever happened to names that everyone knows such as Robert and Julia? They have seemed to vanish within the past, along with the rationality of pregnant women and dads-to-be.

It doesn't mean that you have to give your child a name that a million other people in this world already have.

It just means that you shouldn't be inspired by Hollywood celebrities who claim their children with names like Apple or Blue Ivy. Taking fashion advice from Beyoncé? Ok. Taking baby name advice from Beyoncé? Not ok.

When it comes to the naming of a baby, there is no opinion more important than that of the mother and father. But there is also nothing more embarrassing than being named after a piece of fruit.

DONATION TO REACH OUT



Supplied photo

Doug Swartz Appliance Service in Port Colborne recently donated a kitchen refrigerator valued at \$850 to Port Cares Reach Out Food Centre. Pictured from left are Port Cares development officer Pam Swick Janjac, Doug and Debbie Swartz from Doug Swartz Appliance Service, and food centre operations coordinator Rachelle Anderson.

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■ EDUCATION: More public school closures possible

Port High subject to review

SHAWN JEFFORDS
QMI Agency Niagara

ST. CATHARINES — District School Board of Niagara trustees have agreed on the next step in a plan that could see as many as 11 elementary schools and high schools across the region close — including Port Hope.

Marilyn Hyatt, superintendent of planning, said a revised plan, which was approved by the board on Tuesday night, will address the most pressing needs. The board deviated from a previously laid out three-phased accommodation review plan and has instead come up with a revised plan that will see 11 high schools in Port Colborne and Fort Erie and elementary schools in Lincoln and central St. Catharines and become the subject of three accommodation reviews in 2012-13.

"The reason why we did

phases was so that there would be that fluidity," Hyatt said. "We could look at if there were other things that impacted enrolment on an ongoing basis, as well as other factors that impacted our accommodation review decisions."

The board just finished the first phase of its latest facilities plan, which saw a Port Erie and South St. Catharines/Thorold review take place. In all, 10 schools will be reviewed when the reviews begin this fall. The reviews will focus on:

- Lake Erie corridor: Port Colborne, Ridgeway-Crystal Beach and Fort Erie secondary schools

Central St. Catharines: Maywood, Memorial and Alexandra elementary schools

- Lincoln: Vineland, Maple Grove, Jordan, Campden elementary schools

The schools along the (Lake Erie) corridor are all

older schools with a lot of renewal work required," Hyatt said. "Also, their enrolments have declined to low 400s. It became one of our priorities."

She said without a critical mass of students, offering a variety of programming at the right time can be difficult. "The board must use taxpayers' cash responsibly," she said.

"There needs to be an awareness of the approximately 10,000 empty pupil spaces that we have. This means that there is operational funding that is going to maintain and operate those empty spaces."

Hyatt said after the board approved the plan Monday, it will be presented to each school community Tuesday. The next step will be to form volunteer accommodation review committees. That responsibility will fall to DSBN superintendent Cam Hathaway, who will replace the



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port High is one of 10 schools under review by the DSBN for possible closure in the future. Hyatt, and oversee the reviews.

Accommodation reviews "are a wonderful opportunity

to re-vitalize education programming," she said. "They are always difficult within the community, but in the end, students always win out. I think that is the critical factor."

see SCHOOL REVIEW | page 14

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■ SCHOOL REVIEW

'Expect change...expect to work together'

FROM PAGE 13

St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake trustee Dalton Clark said the board will again follow a very precriptive set of guidelines set out by the province as it implements the reviews. All of them will take most of the next school year to

complete.

"It's really difficult," he said. "It's a really emotional thing. People get attached to their schools. But the major reason behind doing it is to provide meaningful programming and facilities for kids."

Dave Schaubel, trustee for Fort Erie/Port Colborne,

said the secondary school review will be controversial. It will test the co-operative spirit in the southern tier.

"I think there would be difficulty in getting the parents from Fort Erie and Port Colborne to amalgamate their students into one school," he said. "I don't know if it's an impossibil-

ity, but I know it will be difficult."

Schaubel said there is an appetite in Fort Erie to get the review going and try to fix their local school system. In part, it comes from losing control of so many vital community resources, such as slots and Port Erie Race Track.

"I think we all realize down here that Fort Erie secondary schools are hurting in programming," he said. "We just don't have the numbers."

A report filed in recent years with DSBN called for the construction of one "super school" in the southern tier that would house

up to 1,500 students. That could be a topic of considerable debate during the accommodation review, he said.

"I've been telling people to expect change, to expect to work together, if we don't we'll get nothing," he said. "And be prepared to come with your opinions."

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■ ROLLER DERBY: Movie prompts Port Colborne women to try fast-paced sport

'It was good ... addictive'

DAVE JOHNSON
Import News Staff

ST. CATHARINES — Brenda DeKoe and Erika Tremp couldn't keep smiles off their faces after Niagara Roller Girls first-ever roller derby recently.

"That was awesome!" DeKoe, a member of the Vineyard Vines, said as she headed to a locker room after the game at Jack Gatecliff Arena.

DeKoe, known as Toxic Dessert on the rink, had "risk rash" on her arm and thigh after her Friends and Family Feud doubleheader derby, but was ready to go again.

"It was good ... addictive," she said of the experience.

Despite being all "sweaty and gross," Tremp, known as Ani d'istrangle, said she couldn't wait for the next derby.

"This is probably the best

time I've had in a really long time, the most fun," Tremp, who also skated for the Vineyard Vines, said.

The two Port Colborne women came to the sport after watching the movie *Whip It*, which came out in 2009. The movie is about an ex-beauty pageant contestant who joins a roller derby league. It was based on the novel *Derby Girl* written by Shauna Cross, a

former roller derby competitor. see ROLLER DERBY | page 16

Brenda DeKoe, left, and Erika Tremp, both from Port Colborne, are members of the Vineyard Vines in the Niagara Roller Girls League. They played their first game Saturday night and DeKoe was named her team's most valuable player.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo



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■ ROLLER DERBY

'It's something completely different'

FROM PAGE 15

"I saw the movie two years ago and was hooked. I said, 'I'm going to try that,'" DeKoe said.

With no league in Niagara at the time, she looked to Hamilton.

"I bought all of the gear and started to practise," said the 35-year-old who works at Pinsky's.

Asked why she wanted to join and play in a roller derby league, DeKoe didn't really know.

"It's not a rough girl. It's something completely different. It's not hockey or soccer," she said.

Tremp came about the sport the same way as DeKoe,

through the movie *Whip It*.

"It was something different. It's not a sport we have in Port Colborne," she said.

The 28-year-old chef at Cherry Hill Club in Fort Erie knew she had to try the sport as well.

Luckily for both women, Niagara Roller Girls came along in January this year, thanks to Jeni Lock and Carla Smith, who both competed in a league in Hamilton.

Besides Hamilton there are leagues in London, Ont., and Guelph, Ont., and many in the United States.

In March the two started practising along with other women making up the four-team league. With practices two

nights a week, all of the women in the league who had never been on roller skates before had to learn the moves and various skills needed for roller derby.

Roller derby is played on an oval track. Two 30-minute halves make up the two-period game consisting of a series of jam, each two minutes in length.

At the start of the game, there is a pivot, three blockers and a jammer from each team. As well as setting the pace for the game pivots, who wear stripes on their helmets, are the last line of defense.

Behind the pivots are the blockers who play both offensively and defensively.

Their job is to help their



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Erika Tremp, on the outside of the track, was a jammer for the Vineyard Vixens during their game against Maids of the Fist this past Saturday.

stars on their helmets.

The game starts when the blockers begin moving. When the last blocker crosses the pivot line, a second whistle is blown and the jammers start to skate and fight their way through the pack. The

lead jammer is declared when they make it through the pack. Win or lose, points are scored when jammers make it through the pack and lap members of the opposing team.

see ROLLER DERBY | page 19



Township of Wainfleet

"Wainfleet - find your country side!"

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR MODIFIED OFFICIAL PLAN

The Township of Wainfleet has authorized staff to hold another statutory Public Meeting to allow for additional public input on the modified Official Plan and any other changes proposed by Council. Township Council will hold a Public Meeting to allow interested parties to make representation respecting the proposed Official Plan as follows:

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

7:00 pm

Wainfleet Chambers, Township Offices
31940 Highway #3,
Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0

ABOUT THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN:

The purpose of the Official Plan is to set a long term 20-year vision for the Township, establish goals and objectives to guide future land use changes in the municipality consistent with this vision, and set out specific policies to guide future change while maintaining the desired qualities of the Township. The new Official Plan will replace the current Township Official Plan, as amended, which was originally approved in 1979.

The Official Plan is intended to provide a framework which Township Council may make decisions regarding land uses, built form, municipal service investments and the protection of key environmental features and functions. It also provides Council with a framework to consider private and public proposals for Zoning, Bylaw amendments, site plan approval, building permits, plans of subdivision and land severances.

The new Official Plan was prepared with the assistance of the Township Consultant Sonnenz Greivley Lowes Planning Associates and is the product of a multi-step process. Specifically: In 2009, "Visioning" workshops were conducted and background information about the Township was collected and compiled into an "Issues and Opportunities Report".

In 2010, a "Strategic Plan" was developed which recommended policy directions for a new Township Official Plan, which policies were intended to address the "Issues and Opportunities Report".

On October 5, 2010, Township Council adopted a statutory public meeting concerning the proposed Official Plan.

On September 14, 2010, Township Council adopted the new Official Plan.

In late 2010, the proposed Official Plan was sent to the Region of Niagara for review and adoption.

Between 2011 and mid 2012, the Official Plan was reviewed and modified by Planning Staff at the Region of Niagara in consultation with the Township of Wainfleet Planning Department. The document had been significantly modified from its original adopted version.

On May 22, 2012, Township Council authorized staff to hold another statutory public meeting to allow for additional public input on the modified Official Plan and any other changes proposed by Council.

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL ITEMS ARE PROPOSED

TO BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL:

Providing greater flexibility on the sale of municipal owned waterfront lands and road allowances.

Changes to the green energy policies contained within the modified Official Plan.

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENT/INPUT TO THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN:

The Public Meeting will allow anyone an opportunity to make representation in respect to the proposed Official Plan directly to Township Council. Representation can be made orally at the meeting or in writing any time prior to the meeting (as below).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MAKING COMMENT/INPUT REQUEST THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN:

If a person or public body does not make oral submission at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Wainfleet before the proposed Official Plan is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the "Approval Authority," which is the Regional Municipality of Niagara, or to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submission at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of Wainfleet before the bylaw is passed, the person, or public body, may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board or to the opinion of the Board, unless there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the hearing of the proposed Official Plan, or to make written written request to the Township Clerk, Tanya Lamb, at the address below.

HOW TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AND RELATED INFORMATION:

The proposed Official Plan and related background information is available for review on the Township website (www.wainfleet.ca) or at the Township Offices during regular business hours. Questions, information requests or written submissions respecting the proposed Official Plan should be directed to the Manager of Planning by e-mail (planning@wainfleet.ca) or through the Township Offices.

Grant Munday
Manager of Planning
Township of Wainfleet
31940 Highway #3, Box 40
Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0
(905) 899-3464 x225

■ ROLLER DERBY

Competitors looking forward to next game

FROM PAGE 16

Trempl was a jammer during one of periods in her game against the Maids of the Fist, while DeKoe was named most valuable player in the 207-189 loss.

Both women said they were very pleased, believing they were the first time in the double-header, which also saw the Dalhousie Destroyers beating the Seaway Sirens 211-185.

But once on the track and into the game, those nerves quickly disappeared as the game picked up pace. They both smiled as the game went along as did almost every competitor on the track.

While the Port Colborne women were looking forward to their next game in July, they also were looking ahead to next season.

"I'll definitely come back next year," Trempl said.

DeKoe also wants to come back and play.

The league will play all its games in St. Catharines this year and both women the league is looking for a permanent home.

"I'd like to see it in Port Colborne," said DeKoe, who is hoping to promote the league along Canals Days this August.

Upcoming action — July 14, 18 and Aug. 18 — will take place at Bill Burgoyne Arena, 129 Linwell Rd. There's also a fundraising event Monday, July 16, at Henry of Pelham, 1469 Pelham Rd., St. Catharines, with the screening of the movie "Derby Baby," beginning at 7 p.m.

More information is available online at www.niagararollerirls.com or www.facebook.com/NiagaraRollerGirls.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Vineyard Vixens' Brenda DeKoe, right, battles a Maids of the Fist blocker during action in Niagara Roller Girls league play. DeKoe is a Port Colborne resident.

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